

SUSTAINABLE CITIES NEWS & UPDATES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 17, 2012



In This Issue

- [Big Wheel Keep on Turning](#)
- [Governor Quinn Vetoes "Plastic Bag" Bill](#)
- [Governor Quinn Signs Law to Detoxify Dry Cleaners](#)
- [Spotlight: U of I makes Sierra Club List](#)
- [Spotlight: DCEO'S Electric Vehicle Rebate Program](#)
- [Jobs, Internships, and Opportunities](#)
- [Sustainable Grants](#)
- [Caught Green-Handed](#)
- [Fresh Potpourri](#)
- [About this Newsletter](#)

Quick Links

Green.Illinois.Gov

Illinois.gov/Gov

[Contact Us](#)

Big Wheel Keep on Turning

Welcome to the latest edition of "Sustainable Cities" brought to you by your new sustainability provider Mavara Agha. As an incoming Dunn Fellow at the Governor's Office, I have been endowed with bringing you the most up-to-date and exciting news across Illinois. As highlighted in this edition, this newsletter will also continue to serve as a vehicle of information for the various initiatives being put forth by Governor Quinn's administration.

First, we have the [Zipcar program](#). A year into our master contract, employees from various agencies have set up Zipcar accounts. Trainings have been extended until the end of 2012 and allow state employees to take

advantage of this friendly travel alternative.

Next, **electric vehicles** have sparked an interest across the state, especially with great infrastructure incentives available from the [Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity \(DCEO\)](#). DCEO is providing rebates toward the installation of Level II EV charging stations ([read this issue's Spotlights](#)).

EVs require less maintenance, promote economic development with related technologies, and leverage renewable energy resources for overall environmental benefits.

Finally, the Governor is excited to present the **Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact Awards Program**. The awards,

being held at the McDonald's Conference Center on November 9th, 2012, will recognize institutions that have fulfilled the requirements set forth by the [Green Governments Coordinating Council](#). Congratulations to [these schools](#) at the recognition level who will be awarded for fulfilling their commitment and implementing sustainable practices on their campuses!

The aforementioned are just highlights of a range of activities taking place here. I am already amazed by these initiatives and am excited to see more progress across the State as we move forward and continue to preserve Illinois as the Green Capital of the Nation.

Mavara Agha
Mavara.agha@illinois.gov

Subscription Information

If you no longer wish to receive Sustainable Cities updates from the Office of the Governor, or wish to add a colleague to this list, please email Mavara.Agha@Illinois.gov. For more information about Governor Pat Quinn's sustainability initiatives and the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, please visit Green.Illinois.gov



"Justice Louis Brandeis once called states the 'laboratories of democracy' for our nation. Let's not tie the hands of innovative Illinois municipalities that are laboratories of reform for Illinois."
- Governor Quinn

Governor Quinn Vetoes "Plastic Bag" Bill

On August 26, 2012, Governor Pat Quinn vetoed a bill which would have removed the right of home rule communities to implement innovative solutions to the plastic bag litter problem. In his veto message, the governor said the bill is more restrictive on municipalities than any other plastic bag regulation in the country, which would have created a roadblock for locals to choose policies that fit the needs of the area.

The governor also reiterated his commitment to working with communities, businesses and advocates to pass a better bill in the next legislative session to increase recycling.

[Senate Bill 3442](#), also known as the "plastic bag" bill, would have required manufacturers to register with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and stamp a number on each plastic bag. The bill would have outlawed the purchase of plastic bags from non-registered manufacturers and prohibited municipalities from enacting their own recycling programs, fees or outright bans on plastic bags.



Governor Quinn Signs Law to Detoxify Dry Cleaners

On August 24, 2012, Governor Pat Quinn signed a new law to impose tougher safety measures on the use of perchloroethylene (a solvent commonly known as “perc”) by dry cleaners. [House Bill 4526](#) requires dry cleaners to use “best management practices” while using the solvent. The law is backed by the dry cleaning industry, environmentalists and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

“If improperly handled, dry cleaning solvents can seep into our groundwater and skies, and pose a threat to workers,” Governor Quinn said.

The legislation includes improved control and containment systems, better training, and more comprehensive reporting. The law will require all new dry cleaning machines, beginning in 2013, to have “primary and secondary” control systems to reduce the concentration of perc, and to have sealed containment structures to contain leaks or spills by 2014. View the bill signing [here](#).



"This new law will help protect our drinking water and we salute the dry cleaning industry – and especially the Korean American Drycleaners Association – for partnering with environmental advocates to get this done."
- Governor Quinn



Spotlight: U of I makes Sierra Club List

The best way for a campus to ace its commitment to environmental improvements? Measure, and measure again. This year's winners in [Sierra's](#) annual ranking of America's greenest colleges are not only committed to the cause but also meticulous about quantifying the results of their efforts. Congratulations to the University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign—the only institution in Illinois to be on the list — for ranking 52nd in Sierra's [Cool Schools ranking](#)!

Sierra's scoring rubric emphasized the Club's environmental priorities and rewards schools that do a good job of measuring and mitigating their impact. When it came to survey responses, all submitted materials were considered, though where answers were blank, unclear, or inconsistent, institutions were not awarded full credit.



The resultant is an index that provides fair, comparative information about the most important elements of campus sustainability. The results suggest that while many universities are making admirable progress, no school has yet attained complete sustainability. To place high, schools had to rock every one of Sierra's survey's categories, from waging war on emissions to serving sustainable foods. Congratulations to the University of Illinois for making the cut and promoting sustainable practices on their campus!



Spotlight: DCEO's Electric Vehicle Rebate Program

DCEO is pleased to announce the opening of the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Rebate Program for Fiscal Year 2013. The information and link below are also available on the [Electric Vehicle website](#).

DCEO is providing rebates toward the installation of Level II EV charging stations. Rebates cover 50% of equipment and installation (materials and labor) costs up to the following caps: \$3,750 per networked single station; \$3,000 per non-networked single station; \$7,500 per networked dual station; and \$6,000 per non-networked dual station. The maximum possible total rebate award is \$49,000 or 50% of the total project cost for up to 15 stations, whichever is less.

Eligible applicants for this rebate program include: units of government, businesses, educational institutions, non-profits, and individual residents. EV charging stations must be purchased and installed prior to submitting a rebate application. Rebate applications will be processed on a rolling basis. The deadline for rebate applications is 4:30 pm on Thursday, December 20, 2012. [Click here for the FY13 Illinois Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Rebate Program guidelines and application packet.](#)

Jobs, Internships, and Opportunities

Project Coordinator for Greencorps Chicago

The City of Chicago is looking to hire a project coordinator for the Greencorps Chicago program. Greencorps Chicago trains individuals with barriers to employment, teaching them new job skills to help them become a part of Chicago's growing green job market. The project coordinator will work with Greencorps participants, overseeing their projects and training and will work with the Greencorps director, drafting Greencorp Chicago media communications and ensuring that Greencorps Chicago runs smoothly through all of its day-to-day activities.



Advancing Women in Transportation Scholarships

The Greater Chicago Chapter, in conjunction with WTS International, is offering four scholarships this year to women pursuing careers in the area of transportation. Two scholarships are for graduate students and two are for undergraduate students. The scholarships range from \$1000 to \$4000. For more information, please click [here](#).

Director, Campus Energy & Sustainability - Illinois Institute of Technology

This position at IIT leads the development of management of campus-wide energy and conservation initiatives. The Director also manages the implementation of these initiatives which includes the development of a new power infrastructure for all campuses, the negotiation of energy contracts with suppliers, and the introduction of best in class energy sustainability processes and programs. For more information, please click [here](#).

Intern at the Shedd

Work. Study. Do both, assisting with animal care or in a variety of other positions, as a Shedd Aquarium intern. The John G. Shedd Aquarium internship program is designed to allow you to learn from the professionals, in a variety of areas throughout the aquarium. Whether you're interested in assisting with animal care, marketing initiatives, education, human resources, or other areas, Shedd gives you meaningful, practical, hands-on experience to equip you with the knowledge and skill you will need to pursue your professional goals. Undergraduate students, recent college graduates, and graduate students may apply. The internship is typically a 12-week session. Click [here](#) for more information.



'America's Smartland: Let the Midwest Surprise You' Video Contest

The submission period is now open for the Midwestern Governors Association (MGA)'s video contest, *America's Smartland: Let the Midwest Surprise You!* The contest is designed to draw attention to the unique qualities of the Midwestern region and all it has to offer - a strong work ethic and climate for business and job growth; high-quality schools and colleges; a stand-out standard of living, including vibrant cities and towns, affordable housing, cultural, recreational and sporting activities; four distinct seasons; and breathtaking natural wonders. Over \$10,000 in prize money will be awarded to the winning entries, including a \$2,500 grand prize. To enter, develop a brief video (up to three minutes) that features your perspective on what makes the Midwest so great. Participants must be residents of a MGA member state - Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin. Click [here](#) for more information on the contest.

Sustainable Grants

1) America's Great Outdoors: Connecting Youth to the Outdoors

Deadline: September 19, 2012

The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) is launching a grant program to increase the number of youth who build a connection with public lands as places for recreating, learning and volunteering. Proposals for America's Great Outdoors: Connecting Youth to the Outdoors 2012 grants should maximize hands-on outdoor engagement opportunities on public lands, focusing on education, recreation and environmental stewardship. Prospective applicants must be a Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management unit or a nonprofit organization, academic institution, tribal group, or local or state government entity that partners with the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management. Grants will range from \$2,500 to \$20,000. For more information, visit the [NEEF grant page](#).

2) Project Learning Tree Green Works! grant

Deadline: September 30, 2012

Do you have an idea for a school/community native plant garden, a forest improvement project, a streamside restoration plan, a recycling program, or energy conservation project for your students? Need funds to implement it? Apply for a Project Learning Tree GreenWorks! grant! Project Learning Tree is pleased to announce that grants are available in two award levels: 1) the popular and traditional GreenWorks! grants up to a maximum of \$1,000 and 2) GreenWorks! grants up to \$3,000 for registered PLT GreenSchools! For more information, visit the [Project Learning Tree grant](#) page.



3) Captain Planet Foundation

Applications are accepted several times per year: January 15, May 31, and September 30

The Captain Planet Foundation primarily makes grants to U.S.-based schools and organizations with an annual operating budget of less than \$3 million. Grants are made for activities that conform to the mission of the Captain Planet Foundation which is to: promote and support high-quality educational programs that enable children and youth to understand and appreciate our world through learning experiences that engage them in active, hands-on projects to improve the environment in their schools and communities. Grants from the Captain Planet Foundation are intended to: serve as a catalyst to getting environment-based education in schools, and inspire youth and communities to participate in community service through environmental stewardship activities. Please visit [Captain Planet Foundation](#) for more information.

4) Funders' Network Local Sustainability Matching Fund – \$250,000

Deadline: October 1, 2012

The Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network have joined together to launch a Local Sustainability Matching Fund. The fund will provide matching investments from national foundations on a competitive basis to build partnerships between sustainability directors and local place-based foundations to advance discrete sustainability initiatives that demonstrate broad-based community support and engagement. For more information, visit the [Funders' Network](#).

Sustainable Grants

5) AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Teams (SDAT) – Technical Assistance

Deadline: October 12, 2012 (with two review cycles)

The Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) program focuses on the importance of developing sustainable communities through design. The American Institute of Architects' Center for Communities by Design is seeking potential partner communities that can demonstrate the capacity to convene a diverse set of community leaders and stakeholders for an intensive, collaborative planning process focused on long-term sustainability. The Center is particularly focused on identifying communities that have the ability to leverage local resources and build strong partnerships for implementation of an SDAT process. Awarded communities will receive pro bono services from a multidisciplinary team through the program, and the AIA commits to funding up to \$15,000 for each project to cover team expenses. For more information, visit the [AIA SDAT page](#).

6) EPA Climate Leadership Awards

Deadline: October 12, 2012; application period opens August 22, 2012

EPA co-sponsors the Climate Leadership Awards (CLA) with three NGO partners: The Climate Registry, the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, and the Association of Climate Change Officers. The CLA is a national awards program that recognizes and incentivizes exemplary corporate, organizational, and individual leadership in response to climate change. Applications will be accepted for the following recognition categories: Excellence in Greenhouse Gas Management (Goal Setting Certificate), Excellence in Greenhouse Gas Management, Supply Chain Leadership Award, Organizational Leadership Award, and Individual Leadership Award. This year's award winners will be publicly recognized in early 2013 at the awards gala, held in Washington, DC, in conjunction with the Climate Leadership Conference. For more information, visit the [Climate Leadership Awards site](#).



7) NEA Foundation-Nickelodeon Big Help Grants Available to K-8 Public School Educators

Deadline: October 15, 2012

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available to educators at K-8 public schools for the development and implementation of projects related to environmentalism, health and wellness, students' rights to a quality education, and community involvement. Visit [NEA Foundation](#) for more information.

8) Water Planet Challenge Grants

Deadline: October 15, 2012

Grants of \$2,000 are available to middle and high school educators for programs utilizing EarthEcho's Water Planet Challenge Action Guides to involve their students in environmental awareness and conservation of water resources. Visit [NEA Foundation](#) for more information.

Caught Green-Handed

Debbi Leach

Division of Vehicles, Central Management Services

In this edition of “Caught Green-Handed” we honor **Debbi Leach**, from the Division of Vehicles at Central Management Services.

Colleague **Will Walker** nominated Ms. Leach for this recognition **for her tireless efforts in sustainability and recycling.**



Debbi Leach has embraced the green leader position and has been instrumental in working with Mike Cavanaugh (CMS recycling coordinator) in recycling efforts at the DOV. She has rolled out “blue bins” at DOV office and garages, took a lead role in organizing a clean-up of all garages, turned in mounds of old paperwork (coordinating with recycling and shredding), and coordinated the return of old office equipment for recycling.

Debbi worked with the local janitorial company to coordinate recycling efforts and ensure they were following the State Green Cleaning guidelines. She also worked with Mike Cavanaugh and the CMS Green Team to coordinate metal recycling in all garages at DOV. Each garage is recycling about 4,000 lbs. of metal per month, and the DOV collects revenue for the “waste.”



Debbi Leach — you have officially been caught green handed! Thank you for all that you have done. You are an inspiration to your community and to your state.

Fresh Potpourri

1) Urban Sustainability Hackathon
October 5th—7th, 2012
TechNexus, 200 S Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601

The Sustainability Hackathon is an opportunity for programmers to tackle urban problems in a high-energy, collaborative environment. CNT will make available to the programmers some of its data and proprietary models and indexes with a challenge to turn them into new and useful tools for urban living.

The Hackathon will be held at TechNexus, Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. Friday evening will be a social event where participants meet each other, pitch their ideas and form teams. CNT's technical team will be available for consultations. The Sustainability Hackathon culminates in team presentations before judges. Cash and other prizes are awarded at a closing reception. Hackathon participants will be strongly encouraged to attend the prior Thursday night event. For more information contact Adam Mays at amays@cnt.org.

2) Great Lakes Water Scarcity and Regional Economic Development
October 10th, 2012, 8:30—10:30 am
Northwestern University, Wieboldt Hall, Rm 147

This event features a discussion that will explore the latest technical and political issues surrounding Great Lakes water quality and availability, especially as they are being affected by climate change. The implications for the often under-appreciated resources of the Great Lakes are huge, as the sustainability of the world largest group of freshwater lakes is vital to public and environmental health and regional economic development. The discussion will include how regional governments and industry are responding. Please RSVP by emailing jeffhenderson@northwestern.edu.

3) Waste Not: Advancing Commercial Food Scrap Collection in Chicago
October 18th, 2012, 1:00—5:00 PM
Highland Park Art Center, Highland Park, IL

How do we increase commercial food scrap collection in the Chicago area! Join us for an afternoon workshop to discuss barriers and solutions across four countries and associated waste management agencies in Cook, Northern Cook, Dupage, Kane, and Lake Counties.

The event will review best practices in the Chicago area and beyond and discuss such issues as route density, training, equipment, contracts, and ways to increase food scrap composting. Click [here](#) to register.

4) U of I's 3rd Annual Sustainability Week
October 22nd—26th, 2012
University of Illinois, Urbana

In collaboration with many partners, the Office of Sustainability will be hosting the 3rd Annual Sustainability Week on October 22-26. Please [check here](#) for exciting campus and community events.





Mavara Agha

James H. Dunn Memorial Fellow
Policy-Sustainability and Energy
Office of the Governor
JRTC | 100 W. Randolph | Suite 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601-3112
Phone 312.814.1164
Fax 312.814.5274

This resource is provided by the Office of Governor Quinn to Illinois elected officials, municipalities, counties, organizations, and individuals interested in supporting sustainability efforts in their communities. For more information on sustainability resources, please visit our website, www.green.illinois.gov.

If you would like to submit an item to be included in the newsletter please email Mavara.agha@illinois.gov



Find us on
Facebook



On August 24, 2012, Governor Pat Quinn signed a new law to impose tougher safety measures on the use of perchloroethylene (a solvent commonly known as “perc”) by dry cleaners.